

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT	Communist Demonstration of 26 February 1954	DATE DISTR.	12 April 1954	
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SOURCE:

- On the night of 26 February the Communist Party of Uruguay (PCU) held a public demonstration against the "high cost of living, for peace, and for the candidacy of Eugenio GOMEZ for the Senate." The demonstration was a success so far as organization was concerned, and for the first time in recent years the PCU succeeded in arousing the interest and participation of almost all of its members. However, it again demonstrated the inability of Communist slogans and propaganda to attract the non-Communist masses.
- The parade, consisting of approximately 3,000 men, women and children, accompanied by some 50 trucks which were mostly empty, proceeded along Avenida 18 de Julio, the main street in Montevideo, toward the center of the city. The columns were conveniently spaced behind the officials of the PCU, who formed a separate group at the head of the parade. The parade was organized into many different groups, each in the form of a triangle, with six persons in the front line and two persons in the last line. The flanks of the parade were protected by mobile brigades of from ten to twenty men, under the direction of Eugenio GOMEZ Chiribao, PCU National Organizational Secretary, which continually moved forward and backward beside the columns. The final meeting was held in the square at Avenidas 18 de Julio and Agraciada, where the PCU officials occupied a large platform which had been previously erected for this purpose. The only speech of the evening was given by Eugenio GOMEZ, secretary-general of the PCU, before a crowd generously estimated at 4,000 people.¹ Both the parade and the final meeting were observed with complete indifference by the general public in the area of the demonstration.

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1. Comment: Considering the fact that this meeting was scheduled for the opening night of the carnival season, when large numbers of people would be in the center of the city, it appears that, even with the intense preparatory propaganda, the PCU failed completely in its efforts to attract the interest of any appreciable part of the non-Communist population.

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